Grants for Repairing of NH in States

*194. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reconsider the grants for repairing of National Highways to the States for the remaining period of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI I.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) The allocation for the maintenance of National Highways is about 50% of the requirement. A sum of Rs. 1,236.50 crore has been allocated during the 8th Five Year Plan for maintenance. Enhencement of funds for maintenance would depend upon the availability of resources.

Recharging Ground Water

*195. SHRI RAJUBHAI A PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a new cost effective method of recharging of wells and preventing water level from going down by harnessing rain water from the drains by a process called rain harvesting;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to study and popularise the system especially in view of the fast depleting ground water level in growing cities and towns; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay for harnessing rain water for recharging water resources while preventing it from going down the drain?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is aware of various methods of recharging of wells including rainwater harvesting. The steps taken by the Government include:—

(i) Rainwater harvesting experiments by Central Ground Water Board in Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Union Territory of Chandigarh under a Central Sector Scheme.

(ii) Formulation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme to assist States in recharge of ground water which is at consultation stage.

(iii) Circulating Manual/guidelines on artificial recharge of ground water and rainwater harvesting for formulation of recharge schemes by user agencies.

(c) Question does not arise.

भूमिगत जल एवं नहर व्यवस्था द्वारा सिंचाई

*196. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वर्ष 1995 के प्रारंभ में, देश में 149 मिलियन हेक्टेयर भूमि की सिंचाई भूमिगत जल एवं नहर व्यवस्था द्वारा की गई थी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि हाल ही में बिरला फाउंडेशन द्वारा किए गए अध्ययन से यह तथ्य प्रकाश में आया है कि विभिन्न कारणों से उपर्युक्त सिंचित भूमि के क्षेत्र में कमी आई है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है;

(ङ) क्या पानी के बढ़ते हुए दलदलीय प्रभाव, भूमिगत पानी के निरंतर गिरते हुए स्तर तथा नदी-कटाव आदि के कारण, देश में सिंचित भूमि के क्षेत्र में कमी आई है; और